

Applicant : Nariyoshi Shinomiya et al.
For : *c-met* siRNA ADENOVIRUS VECTORS INHIBIT CANCER CELL
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In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An interfering RNA (RNAi) molecule having a sequence that is sufficiently complementary to ~~the a~~ sequence of mRNA encoded by human *c-met* (SEQ ID NO:1), murine *c-met* (SEQ ID NO:2), or *c-met* of another mammalian source, so that expression of said RNAi molecule in a cell that normally expresses *c-met* results in diminution or loss of expression of said mRNA.
2. (original) The RNAi molecule of claim 1 that is a single stranded siRNA that forms a hairpin structure.
3. (original) The RNAi molecule of claim 1 that is a double stranded siRNA.
4. (currently amended) The RNAi molecule of ~~any of claims 1-3~~ claim 1 that (i) comprises, or (ii) hybridizes to a Met target sequence that comprises, a sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) SEQ ID NO:9; (b) SEQ ID NO:10; (c) SEQ ID NO:11; (d) SEQ ID NO:12; (e) SEQ ID NO:13; (f) SEQ ID NO:14; (g) SEQ ID NO:15; (h) SEQ ID NO:16; (i) SEQ ID NO:17; and (j) SEQ ID NO:18.
5. (currently amended) The RNAi molecule of ~~any of claims 1-3~~ claim 1 that consists essentially of:
 - (i) a sequence, selected from the group consisting of (a) SEQ ID NO:9; (b) SEQ ID NO:10; (c) SEQ ID NO:11; (d) SEQ ID NO:12; (e) SEQ ID NO:13; (f) SEQ ID NO:14; (g) SEQ ID NO:15; (h) SEQ ID NO:16; (i) SEQ ID NO:17; and (j) SEQ ID NO:18, or (ii) a sequence that hybridizes to a Met target selected from (a)- (j), above.

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6. (original) The RNAi molecule of claim 4 that comprises a sequence complementary to human *c-met* mRNA which is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, and SEQ ID NO:15.

7. (original) The RNAi molecule of claim 5 that consists essentially of a sequence complementary to human *c-met* mRNA which is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, and SEQ ID NO:15.

8. (currently amended) A DNA molecule encoding the RNAi molecule of ~~any of claims 1-7~~claim 1.

9. (currently amended) An expression construct comprising DNA that encodes the RNAi molecule of ~~any of claims 1-7~~claim 1 operatively linked to a promoter that drives the expression of said RNAi in a *c-met*-expressing cell.

10. (original) An expression construct comprising the DNA molecule of claim 8.

11. (currently amended) The expression construct of claim ~~9 or 10~~, wherein ~~the a~~a promoter is one that drives the expression of said RNAi in a *c-met*-expressing tumor or cancer cell.

12. (currently amended) The expression construct of ~~any of claims 9-11~~claim 11 wherein the promoter is a polIII promoter.

13. (original) The expression construct of claim 12 wherein the polIII promoter is a U6 promoter.

14. (currently amended) A viral vector comprising the expression construct of ~~any of~~

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~~claims 9-13~~ claim 9.

15. (currently amended) The viral vector of claim 14 that is a transient expression ~~vector~~
vector.

16. (original) The viral vector of claim 13 that is a stable expression vector.

17. (currently amended) The viral vector of claim 14 ~~or 16~~ that is an adenoviral vector.

18. (original) The adenoviral vector of claim 17 that is an Ad5 viral vector.

19. (original) The Ad5 viral vector of claim 18 selected from the group consisting of: (a) si-mMet-Ad5⁵⁷; (b) si-mMet-Ad5⁶⁰; (c) si-mMet-Ad5¹¹⁰; (d) si-mMet-Ad5¹⁷⁸; (e) si-hMet-Ad5¹⁶; (f) si-hMet-Ad5⁶²; (g) si-hMet-Ad5²²¹; (h) si-dMet-Ad5¹¹¹; (i) si-dMet-Ad5¹⁹⁷; and (j) si-dMet-Ad5²²³.

20. (original) The Ad5 viral vector of claim 19 wherein the vector is si-hMet-Ad5¹⁶; si-hMet-Ad5⁶²; or si-hMet-Ad5²²¹.

21-37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) A method of treating a *c-met*⁺ tumor or cancer in a subject, comprising administering to the subject by an effective route, an amount of the viral vector of ~~any of claims 14-20~~ claim 14 effective for inhibiting expression of *c-met* and thereby (i) inhibiting the growth, invasion or metastasis of cells of said tumor or cancer, or (ii) killing said tumor or cancer cells.

39-47. (canceled)